Professional Doctorate in Education (D.ED.)

Student Handbook

Academic Year: 2020-2021
This handbook has been prepared to give you background information on the School of Education’s D.Ed. programme.

We have attempted to ensure that it is as comprehensive as possible to help you navigate the different aspects of the programme from registration to thesis submission and everything in-between. It is intended to answer most of your questions, but if it doesn’t, you should feel free to ask those who are involved in the course (academic and administrative) no matter how ‘big’ or ‘small’ your enquiry is. However, it is important that you also familiarise yourself with the Graduate Studies Office (GSO) website as this contains a range of information concerning your tenure as a research student in Trinity. The GSO site is regularly updated and will provide more detail regarding some of the more formal ‘rights and duties’ of being a Trinity research student. One key source of information is Part 3 of the Trinity ‘Calendar’ (Graduate Studies and Higher Degrees) and also the GSO publication ‘Postgraduate Research Student Handbook’

Prof Andrew Loxley
D.Ed. Course Director
School of Education
Trinity College Dublin

SECTION 1 ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAMME

D.Ed. Programme Office

The Doctor of Education programme is part of the School of Education and comes under the auspices of the area of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) which deals with most of the administrative aspects of the D.Ed. The office is situated in the Arts Building in room 3087 and is normally open from 9am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Address: D.Ed. Programme Office,
Room 3087,
School of Education,
The Arts Building,
Trinity College
University of Dublin,
Dublin D2

Tel: 01 896 3583
Email: phdresearch@Trinity.ie

The D.Ed. course administrator(s), are Ms Fiona McKibben and Ms Caroline Morgan and can be contacted directly either by phone 01 896 3583 or email phdresearch@tcd.ie

Please note that as per College policy communication to students is undertaken via Trinity student email address so do remember to check this on a regular basis.

D.Ed. Course Director

The D.Ed. course director is Prof Andrew Loxley, who can be contacted by phone 01 896 3650 or email loxleya@tcd.ie. Please note that in the first instance all enquiries as to modules, assignments, appeals, feedback, supervision and complaints, should be directed to your supervisor. If necessary you can address queries to the D.Ed. office who will then, where appropriate, inform Prof Loxley.

Your Details

It is important, in order to contact you efficiently, that we have your current postal address, email address and telephone numbers. If these change during the year, please can you inform the programme administrator as soon as possible.

Registration

It is mandatory for every research student to register (or re-register) on an annual basis. Students who have registered in September are required to do so in the same period in
each year of study. Registration is now carried out on line, please see the TRINITY website for exact details: [https://www.Trinity.ie/academicregistry/registration/how-to-register/](https://www.Trinity.ie/academicregistry/registration/how-to-register/).

Please also note that there is a **late registration fee** if you fail to register in the time period allotted. If a student fails to register they will be withdrawn from College “books” for that academic year and have to re-apply for admission and pay an extra charge on top of the designated programme fee.

**Suspension of Registration**

Students may apply to suspend their registration (i.e. go ‘off books’) only under certain circumstances (outlined in Part-Two of the *College Calendar*) such as prolonged illness. This application is made via the student’s supervisor to the Dean of Graduate Students and should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). Off books status can be granted for a year, and in exceptional circumstances extended to a second year. When returning to studies after a period “off-books” you should contact your supervisor in time for him/her to indicate your return to College before the deadline of July 1st.

**Fees**

In relation to fees, it is Trinity policy that these are paid prior to registration. According to Trinity procedures for:

**New taught students**: deposits and fees must be paid online using epay.

**New research students**: an invoice will be sent to you with your offer letter.

**Continuing students**: an invoice will be sent from the fees office annually.

**Timetables for Year 1 and Year 2**

The timetables for the sessions for Year 1 and Year 2 can be found on Blackboard under the specific modules.
SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION TO THE DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION

Trinity College and The School of Education

Trinity College, the single constituent college of the University of Dublin, was founded by Queen Elizabeth the First in 1592, and so celebrated its Quarter centenary in 1992. It is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the older universities of Western Europe. Based on the general pattern of the ancient colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, Trinity is larger, with a main campus extending over 40 acres in a unique site in the heart of the city. The west end of the campus includes five quadrangles of squares with many buildings from the 18th century, notably the Old Library - home to the priceless 9th century manuscript, ‘The Book of Kells’. The most recent of these squares was completed in 1978 and is situated opposite the award-winning Arts Building. Further east, the recently built Hamilton and O’Reilly buildings house many of Trinity’s science and technology departments and complement the recently completed Dental Hospital. In a number of ways, Trinity is central to Irish life. Many of the famous people of Irish letters and history were educated at Trinity including writers such as Jonathan Swift, Oliver Goldsmith, Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett. Ireland’s first President, Douglas Hyde, and two other presidents Mary Robinson and Mary MacAleese were all either educated in Trinity College or on the staff of the College or both. Most academic activity is concentrated in the main College campus. However, recent developments have allowed expansion of the Health Sciences Faculty off-campus, in two major locations - a purpose built facility in the largest teaching hospital in Ireland, at St. James’s Hospital in Dublin and another in a newly completed regional general hospital in the Dublin suburbs at Tallaght. In addition sporting facilities and accommodation are provided both on and off-campus. The vigour of any university must be judged by its commitment to research. In the early twenty-first century, this often takes the form of partnership with major international companies or of inter-institutional co-operation within the framework of programmes.

The School of Education was established in Trinity College in 1905. Over the past 100+ years it has grown in size and stature and now provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses in education, as well as undertaking research into many different areas of educational life. It is one of the major professional schools of the University with a current enrolment of 560 students. It has approx. twenty full-time and over seventy-five part-time staff. The School is committed to engaging with educational issues through teaching and research at a number of levels: initial teacher education, postgraduate teacher education and continuing professional development. Within this context of informed practice, the School is dedicated to undertaking high quality research, which permeates teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The result of this scholarly activity has gained both national and international recognition in both the academic and professional community and contributes to the understanding and practice of education.

Undergraduate students read for either the degree of Bachelor in Education or Bachelor in Music Education The School also has a well-respected and thriving portfolio of postgraduate programmes including the Professional Masters in Education in Secondary Education As well as the more generic Master in Education and Master of Studies, As well as the more traditional M.Litt. and Ph.D. research degrees, the School was the first Irish university to offer a professional Doctorate in Education. As well as the provision of undergraduate and
postgraduate programmes, the School has a long and distinguished history of undertaking high quality research, which has gained both national and international recognition in the academic community. The centrality of research within the School is further reinforced by the close links it plays in teaching at all levels. All of the School’s academic staff are research active and are members of research centres or groups. They either pursue work on their own or collaboratively which is underpinned by a thriving research culture in which the interchange of new ideas (and the debating of old ones!) is a vibrant part of everyday life.

As a fundamental part of the research culture of the School, there are a number of points during the year where seminars, guest lectures and conferences take place. Although it is not a requirement for students to attend all of these activities, we would regard participation in some of them as being a constituent part of becoming a researcher. Information concerning these sessions can be found on the notice boards or on the School’s website (http://www.Trinity.ie/Education/index.php).

One of the benefits of being a postgraduate student in TRINITY is that it is an energetic and engaging research environment involving interaction with other Schools and Departments in the social and natural sciences and arts, at various junctures during the academic year. It is well worth the time and effort to try, where possible, to attend sessions in other parts of College. The School is the only School of Education on the island of Ireland to have been consistently in the QS subject rankings top 100.

**Academic Management of the School of Education**

The day-to-day management of the School of Education is undertaken by the Head of School, the Director of Research, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) and the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate). Additionally, school policy is developed and implemented by the School Executive and the School Committee (made up of all academics). Research in the School of Education coordinated and supported by the Research Committee and the Director of Research. Research training for postgraduate students, whether on research or taught degree programmes, is jointly managed by the Director of Research and the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate).

**Research in the School of Education**

The School has a thriving and vibrant research culture organised around two College research centres and four research groups.

- The Cultures, Academic Values in Education (CAVE) research centre focuses on the area of higher education both nationally and internationally.

- The Centre for Research in Information Technology in Education (CRITE) is a joint collaborative initiative between the School of Education and the School of Computer Science and Statistics.

Four additional research groups are active within the School of Education and draw membership from outside the school also.
• Inclusion in Education and Society (IES) has a high profile in special needs education, student voice, psychology of aggression and prejudices and related fields.
• Research in School Education (RISE) is currently exploring areas such as learning environments, models of teaching, learning and assessment, and the work of Lev Vygotsky.
• Arts Education Research Group (AERG) focuses on drama, theatre, music, dance and arts education.
• Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics: Education, Research and Communication (STEM-ERC) is a group which is developing a research agenda in the area of STEM education, across all sectors of formal and informal education.

Research Seminars in the School of Education

The School organises a series of research seminars (usually held once a month) which full-time research students are expected to attend and, where appropriate in relation to their own work, contribute to. Part-time students are also strongly encouraged to attend and also present their work at these seminars. The seminars provide for an arena in which academic staff and students can present and discuss various facets of their work in a relatively informal and supportive atmosphere while providing the opportunity to practice conference presentation. The time-table for the seminars can be found on the Trinity website; notification of forthcoming seminars is by email, posters and the College listings. [http://www.Trinity.ie/Education/](http://www.Trinity.ie/Education/)
THE D.ED.: MISSION STATEMENT, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

The D.Ed. Mission Statement

Our mission is to attract a cohort of senior and experienced practitioners who wish to develop their careers through undertaking innovative practice-focused research which is underpinned by a critical engagement with and application of the current and extant research literature in their fields.

The aim of the D.Ed. is to enable students to question, challenge and to transform personal and professional knowledge in a deep and meaningful way that has direct impact on thought and practice. We aim also to construct, each year in which the programme is offered, a strong sense of belonging to a cohort of mutually supportive professional inquirers and critical thinkers that will provide a social, professional and academic bond that assists each student in their persistence, determination and ambition to achieve this significant qualification. We aim also to engage in innovative and creative pedagogical practice within the programme and in particular, to explore different and imaginative ways of assessing learning and progress through the programme. Significant thought and consideration will be given to alternative forms of summative assessment other than the traditional written assessment modes.

The Doctor in Education represents the logical development of the School of Education’s postgraduate provision. It has been designed to complement the traditional Ph.D. by offering students the opportunity to not only undertake a substantial piece of high-quality research, but to do so in a framework which is intended to be more conducive to the needs of practitioners. Although the D.Ed. has much in common with the Ph.D. (as recognised by Trinity in terms of parity of status as they are both Level 10 programmes), it provides students with an overt structure that is normally missing from the traditional Ph.D. ‘experience’ in the social sciences. The D.Ed. was designed from the outset to provide a research-based and informed programme with a specific focus on professional practice. The locus of the D.Ed. is the research thesis, hence all of the work which you will engage in will have that as the ultimate aim of the programme. As such, students are guided through the research process of the D.Ed. in three main ways:

1. The modules and seminars
2. Research methodology and practice
3. Research supervision

Each of these are dealt with in more detail below, but in short this triad of ‘components’ is intended to not only give students key reference points in terms of content, but act as markers of progression. Undertaking doctoral level research represents a huge commitment on the part of both the student and their supervisor, not forgetting to mention those critical ‘others’ (fellow students, colleagues, other academics, family etc.), who weave in and out of the process.

Given the scope and scale of the work which goes into the final thesis, having a series of markers regarding where on the research ‘road’ students ought to be, should have both an
affective and educational function. Affective, as the D.Ed. attempts to add a temporal structure to the process and educative as it provides for a series of points for students to progress through and towards. However, it is important to state that this structure is only a generic one and will be approached by each student in their own way. The successful completion of a doctoral thesis requires not only adherence to a ‘research recipe’, but more importantly, the engagement in a creative and intellectual process which will hopefully open up new and unexpected avenues.

Aims of the D.Ed.

The aims of the D.Ed. mirror those of the School of Education and Trinity more generally in the endeavour to undertake research of the highest quality and contribute to communities of practice however defined both nationally and internationally. More specifically we will actively encourage and educate students to engage in this spirit of critical enquiry which permeates the School of Education.

In short the aims of the D.Ed. are to:

- Enhance and deepen professional knowledge and understanding of domain specific educational issues;
- Develop expertise in and a critical understanding of, the nature, design and undertaking of empirical and non-empirical educational research;
- Produce an original study which demonstrates the ability to conceptualise, design and undertake educational research;
- Enable students to work autonomously as well as collaboratively in professional or equivalent environments and;
- Make a contribution to knowledge.

Learning Outcomes and Skills to be Developed

Embedded within the more general aims of the D.Ed. as specified above, are a series of learning outcomes and skills which the programme is intended to develop. Although the discourse of ‘outcomes’ is normally associated with competency based models of training, which might be considered to be the antithesis of doctoral work, those for the D.Ed., reflect what PhD students would be expected to be capable of demonstrating either in the thesis, viva or other arenas at the end of their programme.

Thus it is expected that on successful completion of the programme graduates should:

- Demonstrate the ability to formulate research questions pertinent to the domain of study;
- Demonstrate the ability to explore and critically consider different modes and approaches to investigating specific research question(s);
• Be able to critically set the research question(s) within the context of previous research
and knowledge;

• Be able to plan, organise and manage research projects;

• Be capable of constructing and presenting (orally, visually and/or textually in different
contexts) research findings and outcomes;

• Be able to collect, manage and critically evaluate different forms of primary and
secondary data;

• Be capable of undertaking both numeric and non-numeric forms of research;

• Use ICT for a range of different purposes e.g. data management & storage, data analysis,
literature searches, presentation of findings etc.;

• Understand the legal and ethical dimensions of conducting research in educational and
related environments;

• Critically understand the role of the researcher and her relationship with the research
process and knowledge generation.

Structure of the D.Ed.

The D.Ed. has been designed to function as an integrated programme. That is, all the
elements from the first meeting with a supervisor, through the core modules and right up
to submission of the written thesis, are intended to be interconnected. Within a programme
that is made up of a number of components (seminar, supervisory and research) that in
combination leads to a doctoral award, it is crucial that there is linkage between them. The
following is a brief description of the purpose and function of these elements, which in turn
are discussed in more detail later in this handbook.
The Research Component

The research dimension of the D.Ed. is the essence of the programme. The other two components, the supervisory and the modules/seminars are primarily devices to guide and support students. The aim of these is not only to learn how to do research, but for students to become researchers in their own right. The D.Ed. is intended to function as a starting point for people who wish to incorporate research into their professional practices. In short, it is about developing in practitioners the ability, capacity and competence not only to undertake, but commission and supervise research in whatever context they work in after they have graduated.

The successful completion of a thesis is as much about the process of creating an original contribution to knowledge as it is the finished ‘product’; if such a piece of work can ever be finished. What we hope to make explicit on the programme is that research is much more than learning and developing technical competence in for example questionnaire design or document analysis; it is also about creative and intellectual growth, which we would like to think does not end when the thesis is proudly sitting on a bookcase.

It also takes time to become a researcher and critically meld research theory and research practice into a relatively seamless ‘whole’. For the D.Ed, the culmination of this melding is the thesis, which is organically grows out of the initial research questions and into a substantive piece of research.

The Supervision Component

One of the most daunting aspects of starting and in a lot of instances, continuing doctoral level research is the sheer magnitude of the task. The conception, planning and undertaking of a study that not only has to demonstrate a range of features (criticality, methodological rigour, intimate knowledge of the literature, internal coherence etc.) to exacting standards and over a relatively long-time span requires support and guidance. A key dimension to this
support is the supervisor. Although role of the supervisor (as well as the student), is discussed in more detail below, this is traditionally, and the D.Ed. is no exception, multifaceted. We would also see it in the school as a relationship based on the development of mutual trust and undertaken in a spirit of shared intellectual endeavour. As with the PhD and unlike other professional doctorates, students are allocated a supervisor prior to entry on the programme and begin working with them from the outset.

**The Module / Seminar Components**

The third strand and possibly the most ‘structurally visible’ part of the programme are the seminar sessions. Although in other professional doctorate programmes these are commonly referred to as the ‘taught’ elements or ‘taught’ modules, though we disinclined loath to label this part of the D.Ed. as such. At a doctoral level, we would expect our students not to require teaching in a way which is applied at undergraduate and even at master’s level. One of the main expectations the School has of its doctoral students is that they are firstly capable and confident learners and secondly, are able to function in most parts as critical independent learners. In this context the notion of independent is not intended to be synonymous with being isolated. Nor does independent mean that we expect students who embark on a course of doctoral study to be fully conversant with what is required to study at this level; this is somewhat contrary to the philosophy of the D.Ed. The modules/seminars are intended to function on two levels. Firstly, to act as regular points of contact for the cohort of D.Ed. students; affording the opportunity to meet as an intact group and share ideas and generally support each other: in essence to try and reduce the problem of isolation as learners. Secondly, and going beyond the affective and pastoral dimension, the seminars / modules will focus on the development of students’ critical thinking through the introduction (or for some people the re-visiting), of a range of concepts and theoretical frameworks. The research methodology sessions will have a slightly more didactic structure to them as there is specific content to be ‘covered’ and skills to be developed, but will nonetheless be underpinned by a spirit of critical enquiry.
SECTION 3 OUTLINE OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

This next section will provide a more detailed overview of the programme beginning with the structure and the timeline.

Structure and Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>‘Research for fieldwork: Part 1’</td>
<td>Working with supervisor on thesis planning; exploration of literature; developing the research design</td>
<td>Research Assignment One</td>
<td>Literature review should be 50% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Core Module *1: Perspectives, Praxis &amp; Power</td>
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<td>Core Module Assignment</td>
<td>Research Design should 50% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Research for fieldwork: Part 2’</td>
<td>Continue working with supervisor on lead-up to fieldwork</td>
<td>Confirmation at end of Year Two</td>
<td>Literature review should be 90% complete at the end of Year One</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Core Module *2: Imagination, Transformation &amp; Learning</td>
<td>Begin fieldwork during/ end of SM Two</td>
<td>Research Assignment</td>
<td>Research Design should be complete at the end of Year Two</td>
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<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<th>Year Four</th>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Thesis</th>
<th>Additional</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing-up</td>
<td>Viva Voce</td>
<td>Workshop on thesis writing etc.</td>
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The Modules

The module component of the D.Ed. programme comprises of 6 modules. Two of these are designated the ‘Strand-Specific Modules’ and four are based around research methodology. Each module has been allocated 200 hours, of which approximately 25 are linked to face-to-face seminar sessions and the remaining 170 to a range of activities such as personal reading, seminar preparation, preparation of assignments and tutorials with module tutors. The quantification of time in this manner allows students to a) develop a sense of the depth of study which is required for each module and b) structure their time management. It is important to note that this time allocation is separate to the arrangements that are made with the thesis supervisor. However, it is equally important to note, that the study work
undertaken for the modules will ‘feed into’ the supervisory and thesis components. This is most obvious in relation to the research methodology sessions, which will for most students have a tangible influence on their thesis proposal and later thesis work.

Brief descriptions of the modules covered in the programme can be found below.

**Core Module 1: Perspectives, Praxis & Power (Year One)**

*Module Co-Ordinator: Prof Andrew Loxley*

The module is built around three main conceptual themes namely ‘Perspectives, Power and Praxis’ through which students will be encouraged to engage in the process of critically deconstructing five key issues pertaining to contemporary education: globalisation, sustainability, neoliberalism & neoconservatism, social justice & diversity, cultural identity & agency. Students will assess these issues through firstly selected disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives germane to the study of education (e.g. sociology, pedagogy, philosophy, history, creative arts, disability studies, science & technology). Secondly, students will be introduced to different conceptions of power and will consider the effect of domination and subordination which shape and form the issues being investigated. Lastly, within the theme of praxis students, will be encouraged to critically explore how the identified issues (e.g. globalisation, diversity etc) are implicated (or not) in their professional lives. As an overarching narrative to this (and the subsequent) module, the conjoining of perspectives, power and praxis, is articulated within the notion of ‘positionality’. The latter is intended to act as a point of mediation between the students-as-practitioners vis-à-vis macro-structures and systems which will be explored during the module.

**Core Module 2: Imagination, Transformation & Learning (Year Two)**

*Module Co-Ordinators: Dr Suanne Colleary and Prof Carmel O’Sullivan*

The module will introduce students to a range of concepts relating to transformation (social, personal and professional), learning theories (socio-cultural and critical-emancipatory) and imagination (homo-ludens, creativity) and their relationship with educational processes and practice. Students will build on prior learning from the prerequisite module (*Perspectives, Power and Praxis in Education*). Whereas the latter had as its focus the notion of critical deconstruction of process and structures, the aim of this module is for students to engage in a critical reconstruction of educational practices with a specific focus on the inter-relationship between: 1) transformation and more specifically that of bildung, 2) contemporary learning theories and 3), the role in which imagination and creativity can play in the critique and reconstruction of pedagogical process and practices. As its starting point, students will engage in a critique of the discourse of so-called ‘21st century skills’ and in particular its emphasis on creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. In consolidating and building on prior learning, students will consider these from pedagogical perspectives and importantly the contradictions between their emancipatory and transformative possibility, and colonisation and domestication by societal institutions underpinned and driven by the logic of capital accumulation, acquisitive individualism and exclusion which advocate a surveillance and corporate style audit culture. Secondly, and allied to this critique, will be a consideration of the role of technology and its ambiguous
position in contemporary pedagogical practices. Lastly students will be encouraged to
explore the intersection between the construction/reconstruction of the curriculum as a
form of cultural artefact and its instantiation through practice in formal, informal and non-
formal educative contexts. This will provide students with the opportunity to consider the
micro-processes through which identity and positionality, both individual and collective is
produced, reproduced and challenged through educative encounters. Central to the
content and subsequent learning and teaching activities will be an emphasis on reflexivity,
positionality and Whitehead’s notion of a living educational theory.

Research for Fieldwork *1 (Year One)

Module Co-ordinator: Prof Andrew Loxley

This module is intended to act as an introduction to educational research methods. As such
it will offer students the opportunity to explore a number of cognate themes and issues
within educational research on two levels. The first level concerns the broader philosophical
and socio-political questions around the nature, purpose and functions of educational
research. The second level concerns the methodological dimensions of educational
research and will focus on specific approaches such as surveys, experiments and case
studies and methods such as interviews and observations. During the course of the module,
students will be encouraged to develop a critical understanding of the linkages between
these two levels through both theoretical and practical engagement. In turn this will allow
for critical reflection upon a number of emerging and recurring issues around what
constitutes educational knowledge, its construction and evaluation. During the course of
the module we will explore the following issues:

▪ The nature and design of educational and social science research;
▪ The diversity of traditions, paradigms and other concepts informing educational and
  social science research;
▪ Problems associated with sampling and representation;
▪ Basic philosophical issues in research relating to epistemology, ontology and ethics;
▪ The nature and role of practitioner and committed stance research in education;

Research for Fieldwork *2 & ‘Building Models and Explanations’ (Year 2 & 3)

Module Co-ordinator: Prof Andrew Loxley & Other Members of the School of Education

These modules build on the skills, knowledge and understanding developed during the prior
module Educational Research I. The aim of the module is to introduce students to a number
of new areas within educational research but within the context of the foundations
explored in the prior module. The shift will be to the more ‘practical’ dimension which will
be further explored in Core Module 3. More specifically, students will have the opportunity
to assess the role and use of computer packages such as MaxQDA, NUD*IST and SPSS in the
management and analysis of numeric and non-numeric forms of data. They will also be
introduced to the basic principles of statistical description and testing in educational
research. Issues of trustworthiness and transferability will be explored, as well as the use of multiple data sources to strengthen (or not) research findings. This will be meshed within a deeper exposition of the philosophical questions that have already been raised, as well as a more specific focus on the so-called qualitative-quantitative debate, epistemology, ontology and research ethics.

- Appropriate use of computer packages to manage and analyse numeric and non-numeric forms of data
- Statistical description and testing in both primary and secondary data sources
- The role of surveys and questionnaire design in educational research
- The nature, role and function of triangulation and trustworthiness in educational research
- Re-visiting issues within sampling and sampling strategies
- The continuing qualitative-quantitative debate within educational research and social sciences
- The purpose and nature of interviews and naturalistic observation within the context of various kinds of research
- Different modes of recording and analysing observational data;
- The use of documentary and secondary sources.
SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Assignment Requirements

Each module is, unless stated otherwise, assessed by a written or comparable assignment of approximately 5000 words. For clarification, ‘comparable’ will normally take the form of a seminar presentation, in some instances the production of an artefact and an accompanying written report.

The grading of assignments is on a ‘pass-fail’ basis. Students are required to pass all assignments before being permitted to progress onto part-two of the programme. Students who fail a module assignment may re-submit a new piece of work for assessment. Only one resubmission per module is permitted. This also applies to the ‘upgrade’ component of the D.Ed., whereby only one resubmission is allowed.

Some Guidance on Writing Modular Assignments

Even though all of the students on the programme will be experienced writers either from previous academic study or their professional work, it is nonetheless useful to briefly outline some of the normal requirements of writing and presenting an assignment. The development of your own academic ‘voice’ is something the programme will ardently encourage, however and without attempting to be overly directive it is important to be cognisant of the way in which such voices are ‘structured’. It is essential to be aware that the most frequent way in which you will communicate to others on the programme will be in a written form. This suggests that you need to be alert to what kind of writing is required e.g. a traditional essay, a report, a proposal and so on. As such the context and purpose of the writing will have a strong influence on how you write as well as what you write. Clarity, fluidity as well as having something interesting to say comes after much practice and much reflection on the process. Many successful – you can define what this means - writers in academia have spent a long time developing this skill. For many academics, good writing, like playing a musical instrument, does not come easily but has to be worked at. One of the purposes of the D.Ed. is to be able to give students the critical space and time in which to develop as academic writers.

Based on our experience it is strongly advised that students seek discussions with the lecturer on the programme who will be assessing their assignment. This is essential to allow for the clarification of the topic chosen, as well as to allow for more general academic discussion around the concepts, arguments etc. that will inform in the piece.

Organisation of the piece

A piece of writing which otherwise demonstrates good ideas, clarity, argumentation and so forth can be completely undermined by poor organisation. In this context organisation refers to the overall structure of the piece and how you as the writer guide your reader through the text from one section to another or even one idea to another. The use of subheadings is one such device, but they can be rendered meaningless or less effective if they are not accompanied by some text which provides the reader with an explanation as to what function this part of the piece is for. Putting aside arguments post-modern notions
and ‘readerly’ and ‘writerly’ texts, the reader is generally not in a position to second guess what it is you are up to. Writing a good quality piece of academic text is like solving a maths exam question, that is it’s all very well to get the answer, but what is really needed is for the student to show her ‘working’. The simile is equally relevant to writing an academic paper, in that it needs to demonstrate an explicit chain of reasoning as to why and how you are moving from one segment to another. In other words, they will not know unless you tell them. When you read other work, published papers, reports and the like, appraise them not only in terms of content but also in the organisation of the content. A well organised piece should almost appear paradoxically not to have any structure as it enables you move through it almost seamlessly.

*Chain(s) of reasoning*

Linked to the notion of organisation is the minutiae of how you link ideas, concepts, other people’s positions (as well as your own) and so on. An academic piece of writing is not a random collection of ‘bits’ nor an exercise in the ‘stream of unconsciousness’, but a coherent and tightly reasoned set of relationships. In other words, think very carefully (and critically) about how ‘things’ are connected? In other words what are the logical steps that allow you to link together these ‘things’ together? Again, you might very well have a good understanding as to how for example ‘inclusion’ contributes to more ‘diverse forms of teaching and learning’ in primary schools, but you cannot simply juxtapose these two (or more) ideas, phenomena, occurrence or whatever you are discussing, without explaining how this might be so. Again, never presume that your reader will a) be able to join the logical ‘dots’ and b) if they do, there is a very good chance it might not be the connection you are trying to make. A good argument, even if your reader may not agree with it, is about being explicit. Never worry about treating your readers as if they are a ‘low attainer’ by specifying everything, it is when this does not happen that people become concerned. Remember that the function of an academic assignment (as with most other forms of academic writing), is to be explicit about what you mean, unless, that is, you are engaged in some form of ‘experimental’ ethnography or action research.

*Arguments*

Also linked to the above is the notion of logic, is that of ‘argument’. Quality academic writing should not only exhibit organisation and logic but also clarity of argument. Argument in this context is not some omnidirectional and uninformed ‘rant’ but a process of taking into account other voices and positions when constructing your own case. Building a coherent argument involves thinking critically about what other people are saying and how their voices can be used within your writing. What you should not do is only draw on those who support you position; that is if you have one as you might not. Whilst it is important to find or use those who you agree with, it is equally important to use the work of those whom you do not. This is about two key issues in terms of your scholarly work 1) your writing is informed and 2) you are aware of, acknowledge and actively use a wide range of ideas and sources. As an important adjunct to this, academic writing should exhibit a good knowledge of the area you are writing about. It should be evident in your writing that you have read widely and critically thought about what you have encountered. It is essential that you avoid the ‘shopping list’ approach to presenting what you have read. Merely offering your reader a critically undigested roll call of the great and the not so great, will not in any way help to
build your argument. Also and highly important is to remember to include yourself in this process. Do not presume that academic writing is really nothing more than the making a ‘critical inventory’, you also need to draw on your own professional experience and reflections. This can work well if you link it into theories and concepts that are part of the assignment. Again, and it seems tediously obvious, but 1) make sure your stories are relevant to what you are discussing in the assignment and 2) do not saturate your writing with them. This is a difficult thing to attain in academic writing and can take years of practice, so do not be too disappointed if you do not get it right immediately. This is also true to say of the majority of writers in academia.

**Marking**

All coursework is marked by the module co-ordinator and/or lecturers who have contributed to the module and according to agreed guidelines. Assignments will also be moderated by other staff members of the programme to ensure consistency. Towards the end of the academic year a sample of all work is sent to the external examiner to ensure comparability of standards across the D.Ed. All grades that are given are deemed provisional until agreed upon by the D.Ed. Court of Examiners.

Assignments will normally be marked from the following standpoints:

- Knowledge of relevant literature: theory and research;
- Knowledge of relevant professional practice and research methods;
- Informed critical judgement of theoretical, professional and research issues;
- Ability to demonstrate a clear understanding of the problem;
- Ability to evaluate the significance of research or other pertinent material (e.g. policy documents, historical records etc);
- Ability to assess the plausibility and importance of different lines of argument, competing or complimentary;
- Recognition of the implications of evidence;
- Ability to develop a clear line of argument;
- Use and appropriate concepts and language;
- Material is logically organised, demonstrates clarity of expression and is and accurately referenced;
- Where appropriate shows reflection and reflexion on professional biography.

The marking grid given at the end of this document will show in more detail the minimum criteria used in assessing student work.
The assignments (excluding the thesis and any other tasks), which students may be asked to undertake as part of the programme are marked on a pass/fail basis. In the case of a fail, students are allowed to re-submit the work which was not deemed to have reached the required standard.

**Submission of Coursework**

Please submit all course work in ‘hard copy’ format by the specified hand-in date (unless an alternative has been agreed with the programme director), to the D.Ed. office. It is important that you do not hand in your work to the module co-ordinator. This is a precaution to ensure that no assignments will get lost. Also please ensure that you have completed the assignment submission form and obtain a receipt from the office when you submit your work. All written work should be word-processed (see guidelines below) and all supplementary materials for example, images on CD, DVD, etc. need to be clearly marked with your name and student number and attached to the main assignment.

**Requests for Extensions on Assignment Deadlines**

Students wishing to ask for an extension on assignments should in the first instance direct all enquires to the programme director via the D.Ed. office.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is interpreted by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement. Plagiarism is considered as academically fraudulent, and an offence against University discipline. The University considers plagiarism to be a major offence, and subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University. Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences. Plagiarism can arise from actions such as:

(a) copying another student’s work;

(b) enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student’s behalf;

(c) quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format;

(d) paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors.

Examples (c) and (d) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students:

(i) fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others;

(ii) fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn;
(iii) fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement;

(iv) come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source.

All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive. Students should submit work done in co-operation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, work submitted which is the product of collusion with other students may be considered to be plagiarism.

It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Many cases of plagiarism that arise could be avoided by following some simple guidelines:

(i) Any material used in a piece of work, of any form, that is not the original thought of the author should be fully referenced in the work and attributed to its source. The material should either be quoted directly or paraphrased. Either way, an explicit citation of the work referred to should be provided, in the text, in a footnote, or both. Not to do so is to commit plagiarism.

(ii) When taking notes from any source it is very important to record the precise words or ideas that are being used and their precise sources.

(iii) While the Internet often offers a wider range of possibilities for researching particular themes, it also requires particular attention to be paid to the distinction between one’s own work and the work of others. Particular care should be taken to keep track of the source of the electronic information obtained from the Internet or other electronic sources and ensure that it is explicitly and correctly acknowledged.

It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism. Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All departments should include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, advice on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake.

If plagiarism as referred to above is suspected, the Course Director will arrange an informal meeting with the student, the student’s tutor (as an alternative, students may nominate a representative from the Graduate Students’ Union to accompany them to the meeting), and the lecturer concerned, to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond.

If the head of department forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must notify the Senior Lecturer in writing of the facts of the case and suggested remedies, who will then advise the Dean of Graduate Studies who will interview the student if the facts of the case are in dispute. Whether or not the facts of the case are in dispute, the Junior Dean may implement the procedures set out in college regulations which can be found in Part 3 of the Calendar.
SECTION 5  THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

In-line with practice for Ph.D. students in Trinity, D.Ed. students are required to undertake a confirmation process. It is expected that students will ‘sit’ for the conformation near or at the end of the Year Two during Trinity term. Only under exceptional circumstances will students be allowed to progress onto the upgrade before that time. Students who do not fulfil the requirements of the confirmation will not be permitted by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) to re-register as D.Ed. students and therefore ineligible to proceed onto Year Three.

The function of the confirmation is to ensure that the student has progressed from their point of entry onto the programme to a sufficient level to enable them to begin to undertake the substantive research element. Although work on the thesis will have begun in Years One and Two (e.g. the literature review, the development and piloting of research tools, identification participants and so on), what constitutes ‘substantive’ is nonetheless contingent upon 1) what kind of study is being proposed (empirical or non-empirical) and 2) the knowledge domain and disciplinary frameworks. However, it is best thought of in the context of the D.Ed. as the ‘active’ dimension of the student’s research design which necessitates data ‘collection’, analysis and production of the final written thesis for submission. Hence the proposal at this stage is intended to function as a research ‘blueprint’ from which the student can in Year Three undertake their thesis work which does not require extensive planning or developmental work as this ideally should have been carried out in Years One and Two.

The confirmation has two components: oral and written. The oral or ‘confirmation session’ will be structured as a form of oral examination with the student required to present to a panel, of not less than two members of the academic staff, their research proposal. The presentation will take place at the start of the interview. For the written part of the upgrade, students will be required to submit to the panel at least two to three weeks before the ‘confirmation session’ an ‘confirmation document’ of not more than 10,000-12,000 words which will be expected to contain the following elements:

1. **Learning Statement** – a short reflective and evaluative narrative setting out what you have learnt so far on the programme, making reference to how the modules have or indeed haven’t supported your thinking about the issues encountered, your own practice and development of your research (max 1000 words).

2. **Map of the thesis** – usually a set of indicative chapter headings and very short abstracts to accompany them. It’ll provide the reader with some overall context for the study. This needs to include the research questions and rationale for the study more generally. (Max 1000 words)

3. **Literature review** – this does not have to be a complete chapter, but can take the form of an extended critical discussion of a key concept e.g. curriculum in higher education, student retention etc. (Max 5000 words).

4. **Research design** - a relatively detailed exposition of your planned research (max 5000 words).
It should be noted that the rationale for containing these first two elements, as opposed to just the proposal, is that it firstly allows the student and supervisors to critically reflect upon their development so far. If one of the purposes of the programme is to help nurture critically reflective and reflexive practitioners, then this document should reflect that goal. Secondly, it allows the upgrade panel to contextualise the proposal in relation to the above. This also needs to be referenced at this stage to two of the programme aims:

1) ‘to enhance and deepen professional knowledge and understanding of domain specific educational issues’ and;

2) ‘to develop expertise in and a critical understanding of, the nature, design and undertaking of empirical and non-empirical educational research’.

Although the above are essentially end-points, they nonetheless can serve as markers or indicators as to how the student is progressing towards them. The construction of an appropriate and rigorous research proposal (i.e. design) is but one (albeit key) part of the process. In short technical competence and expertise (methodological and/or professional) has to fit within the context of professional understanding and relevance. Hence, one the main tasks of the panel is to assess the extent to which this has been attained at this stage in the student’s development.

Assessment of both the written and oral presentations by the panel will be guided by three broad criteria:

1) does the research as presented demonstrate sufficient rigour e.g. are the research questions grounded in the literature, is the proposed methodology (including ethical considerations) appropriate for the kind of questions or issued posed by the student?

2) does the research as presented demonstrate the capacity to work at a doctoral level? Hence there will be a focus on evidence of criticality, ability of synthesis, sufficient depth, etc.

3) is the research as presented capable of being completed within the time frame of the programme? This is concerned with issues of scope and scale linked to the logistical and practical dimensions of the proposed study.

It should be noted that although students are expected to submit two of their assignments as part of the document, the contribution of these components to the proposal and subsequent oral presentation is implicit. The proposal is a reflection of the student’s own knowledge domain and disciplinary location, whereas the core modules have a more generic approach to them. However, in terms of the student’s critical engagement and understanding of the issues covered in the core modules should nonetheless be reflected in the ‘background to the study’ section and be evident in the quality of their thinking in the ‘proposal’ section. Obviously, this latter section will be indicative of the student’s ability to engage with a range of cognate methodological issues and questions.

It is imperative that the confirmation session and confirmation document should be seen not be seen as a negative process which is couched in such arcane and militarist language
such as ‘defending one’s research’, but underpinned by the principles of peer group collaboration which focuses on:

1) **summative evaluation** which allows the student and panel to gain an insight and understanding into where the student has reached in their development in reference to the programme aims and outcomes, and;

2) **formative evaluation** which allows the student and panel to negotiate and decide on what areas (if any) of the proposal presented requires further development.

Given this the outcome of confirmation can take one of the following forms:

1) The panel has adjudged the document and oral presentation to be of the standard whereby the student can proceed to full D.Ed. status;
2) Minor amendments are required but can the student can proceed to Year 3 without needing further comment from the panel;
3) More substantial amendments are required, and the proposal will need to be seen by the panel before approval can be given;
4) A very substantial re-write is needed and will require another upgrade session;
5) The proposal is deemed not sufficient to warrant any of the above action and the other options should be discussed with the student.

Students will receive a written report from the panel, based on the interview and the material submitted for review. It should be noted that all of the above constitute recommendations which are subject to agreement by the D.Ed. Court of Examiners. Students may appeal the decision of the panel - see Part 3 Section 2 Para 33 of the College Calendar for further details.
SECTION 6 WORKING WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR

As a general preface to the following it is important to note two things. Firstly, the regulations governing a postgraduate student’s progress through College are detailed in the University Calendar - Part 3. Secondly, the Calendar Part 3 contains general statements about the different standards that Masters and Doctoral theses are expected to meet. Trinity also produces a set of guidelines which can be found on the Graduate Studies Website.

College regulations are not overly explicit as to how frequently student and supervisor should meet, as this will inevitably vary depending upon which discipline (e.g. physics, biology, history etc) they are located in. All that is required is that meeting are regular. However, in an attempt to quantify this in terms of the D.Ed. programme the following is suggested. At the first or second meeting with a supervisor (or supervisors if the student is to be supervised jointly), all parties should set out a timetable of meetings for the forthcoming academic year. As a suggestion this should be at least once a month. Given the part-time nature of the D.Ed. meetings do not necessarily always have to be face-to-face but can take some other format e.g. via ICT (email, web conferencing etc), telephone and so on. What is essential is that contact is maintained. Without this, your supervisor will not know what is happening with your work. As such the early stages of the programme are crucial in terms of 1) establishing a working relationship with your supervisor and 2) beginning the research process. It is at the beginning of a doctoral programme were students require considerable support and guidance to mould and shape the direction of the proposed area of study.

As the research progresses and the relationship between student and supervisor develops, there may well be less of a need for intense interaction between the two. However, this does not mean that the student should metaphorically and literally disappear from view. It is crucial that contact is maintained, but this needs to regulated by the stage at which the student is at in terms of their research. It should also be noted that the onus is upon students to make contact with their supervisor. Supervisors, like their students, have other roles to undertake and therefore are not always able to initiate contact if there is a prolonged gap between meetings. By having an annual schedule of meetings planned this should alleviate this problem, but it is no guarantee as other ‘life issues’ may arise for the student which needs addressing. If this is the case, then it is important to notify the supervisor of any impending changes to the schedule.

The relationship between the supervisor and the student is not one which can be easily codified, as it will develop organically over the period of study. However, the following areas will help set the parameters of the relationship and should be taken into consideration at all times.

2 https://www.Trinity.ie/graduatestudies/
Role and Responsibility of the Supervisor

- guide their students in a choice of research topic and the development of their research questions and/or issues to be explored;
- be closely involved in drawing up the research plan and in following the progress of the research in general;
- give the students all possible assistance identifying the material, equipment and other resources essential to their research;
- give the students all possible assistance regarding access to the material, equipment and other resources essential to their research;
- guide the student, especially during the early stages of the research to appropriate literature and/or materials;
- establishing, monitoring and guiding the student’s training needs that go beyond that which is already covered in the D.Ed. research methodology modules (e.g. the use of certain statistical procedures etc);
- the general monitoring of the student's academic progress on all facets of their research work;
- ensuring that the student is aware of the School’s Ethical Guidelines and that their work is in compliance with such guidelines;
- communicating to the student at appropriate points in the lifetime of the supervisory relationship, that their written work has reached or is working towards the appropriate standard which is expected of doctoral level students;
- encourage the student to attend relevant seminars and/or conferences both internal and external to Trinity as part of their academic development;
- encourage the student, when deemed ready, to submit and present their research work at seminars, conferences and any other appropriate scholarly forum both internal and external to Trinity;
- prepare regular (i.e. annual) written reports on the student’s progress;
- inform the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) of any such issues or circumstances which may lead to extensions or the need to go ‘off books’.
- the recommendation of internal and external examiners to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate);
- ensure that there is an agreed agenda as to the content of supervisory meetings;
- ensuring there are written records of supervisory meetings;
commenting on a reasonable given amount of time on student’s written work and offering constructive and critical feedback on this material;

offering appropriate guidance on preparation for the upgrade process;

be alert to any non-academic areas of concern which may affect the student’s progress in which the student may need to be guided to appropriate resources (e.g. Disability Services, Student Counselling);

ensuring that the student is aware of examination procedures;

reading and commenting on the whole of the draft thesis prior to submission provided that it is made available by the student in reasonable time;

advising the student on the readiness of the thesis for submission if so requested by the student;

ensuring that the student is aware of the regulations governing postgraduate students whilst they are registered with Trinity and any changes that may from time to time arise.

Role and Responsibility of the Research Student

• to prepare with guidance from the supervisor an appropriate schedule of work for each academic year;

• to prepare with guidance from the supervisor an appropriate (albeit at times provisional) schedule of meetings for each academic year. This is particularly important for part-time students;

• to present and discuss regularly and in agreement with the supervisor(s) work relating to the research;

• to make contact with the supervisor;

• to provide and agreed agenda as to the content of supervisory meetings so they are as productive as possible;

• to abide by the Ethical Guidelines in the carrying out of all aspects of their research work;

• to bring to the attention of the supervisor as a matter of urgency any aspect of the research work that has or could potentially run counter to the aforementioned Ethical Guidelines (e.g. problematic relations with gatekeepers, or key informants etc);

• to contact the supervisor regarding issues that may affect the any aspects of the research work (e.g. illness, change of job etc.);
• to write a summary of the supervisory session which covers both the content of the session and plan of action stemming from this. A copy of which is to be sent to the supervisor and lastly;

• the student (and not the supervisor) is responsible for producing and writing the thesis.

It is intended that by having a framework in which the student-supervisor relationship can develop, the process of working together will be for the most part and engaging, enjoyable and enlightening. If for any reason the relationship becomes problematic, you should immediately make contact with and subsequently discuss this with the programme director. It is crucial for you and your supervisor that any difficulties that may emerge are dealt with sensitively and as quickly as possible.

**Complaints concerning supervision**

According to Part Three Section 2.10 of the Calendar complaints about the adequacy of supervision should normally be made first to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) is unable to resolve the problem, or where the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) is the Supervisor, the student should contact the Dean of Graduate Studies. Where the Dean of Graduate Studies is also the Supervisor, the student should consult the Dean of his/her Faculty. The Dean of Graduate Studies, or if appropriate the Faculty Dean, should first attempt to resolve the issue by consultation with the persons immediately involved. If this fails, the student may make a formal complaint in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Complaints about the adequacy of supervision will not be entertained once a thesis has been presented for examination. In any case where a dispute between a student and his/her Supervisor and/or Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) has been brought to the notice of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the examiners of that student may both be selected from outside the School.

It is very important to note that College regulations stipulate that at or near the end of each academic year in which the student is registered, supervisors and students must complete a Progress Review Form – a copy can be found in Annex 6 in this handbook.

**Students must fill out and send a copy of this Progress Review Form to their supervisor, who will read it and discuss its contents with the student, before signing it. A copy is then lodged with the School Research Officer. In addition, please send an electronic version to the Research Officer – this does not have to be signed.**
SECTION 7  THE D.ED. THESIS

The D.Ed. thesis is at the centre of the programme. The other components are vehicles to help you not only complete the thesis, but also navigate the process of constructing this piece of work. The D.Ed. thesis will typically be between 60,000-80,000 words long. This size of thesis was decided upon to ensure that it would be accorded parity with TRINITY Ph.D. thesis. From the College perspective there is no difference between the two postgraduate degrees in terms of status, what they represent are different routes to obtaining a Level 10 doctoral level qualification.

Work on the thesis component of the programme begins right from the outset. The initial proposal which was submitted as part of the application procedure represents the starting point of this process. As such it is highly unusual for postgraduate research students that this first proposal in the state it was submitted, will remain unaltered during the programme.

The Thesis Examination Process

The following comments in regard to the thesis examination process are taken from Part 3 of the College Calendar (2016/17 – the 2017/18 version is under completion at the time of publishing this Handbook) and as such they merely represent an overview. For full details please refer to the Calendar.

It is important to be aware that the award of Doctor in Education is based on the written thesis only. As per the College regulations, the seminar components, whilst making a contribution to the production of the thesis, do not in any way form part of the final award. The grades which are given for each of the core and research methods modules do not contribute to the final award. The grades for these modules are used as assessment points only to allow student progression from one part of the programme to another. In many respects this is not dissimilar to the College regulations regarding the award of the PhD whereby students are subject to: 1) annual written reports and 2) supervisors and/or Heads of Departments may ‘test students in whatever way is appropriate’.³ As such these activities do not in themselves have a direct bearing on the award, but are none the less critical in a student’s successful progression on the programme.

Submission of the Thesis

As per College regulations, it is up to the discretion of the student when to submit their thesis for examination. As such, College can only advise students to seek agreement from their supervisor, though they are not obliged to do so. However, from past experience we would very strongly recommend that students do discuss the submission process with their supervisor(s).

https://www.Trinity.ie/calendar/graduate-studies-higher-degrees/complete-part-III.pdf
Examination for the D.Ed. is by 1) assessment of the written thesis and 2) *viva voce* and is conducted by two examiners: one internal (that is an academic staff member of Trinity) and the one external (not an academic staff member of TRINITY). The examiners are nominated by the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) in consultation with the student’s supervisor. The *pro-forma* for such nominations can be obtained from the Graduate Studies Office. Please refer to Part Three Section 2.16 of the Calendar regarding the examination process; it is the same for the D.Ed. as the Ph.D.

The conduct of the examination (location, times etc.) is the responsibility of the examiners in consultation with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the *viva* for any reason cannot be undertaken as a live face-to-face encounter, an application must be made in advance of the proposed *viva* to the Dean of Graduate Studies who will consider such a request.

Any discussion concerning the proposed result of the thesis *prior* to the *viva voce* may only involve the internal and external examiners and the Chair.

There are no regulations concerning the nature and/or duration of the *viva voce* as a process. They are usually as long or as short as they need to be; though if it continues longer than 2.5 hours, a break in proceedings must be taken. The conduct of the *viva* is the responsibility of the examiners but done so in consultation with the Chair. Students are normally told of the outcome of the process (both the thesis and the *viva voce*) at the end of the *viva voce*.

Once the time and date of the *viva voce* is known, we would advise students to meet with their supervisor to discuss their preparation for this examination. This discussion can take different forms and can facilitate the student in articulating some of the main, and other, points of their thesis in a face-to-face setting. Although it is not possible to predict what issues examiners might explore in a *viva*, they may include:

- What are your research questions?
- What have you done?
- Why have you done it?
- How have you undertaken your research?
- What have you found?
- What are the implications of what you have found for professional practice?
- Where do you go next?

More specifically, the D.Ed. thesis is assessed using the criteria developed for *Professional Doctorates (Level 10, National Framework of Qualifications)*. Those who hold this award have been able to demonstrate and mostly in the case of the D.Ed. via the thesis and associated *viva voce*, a systematic comprehension of a field of study and practice, and mastery of the skills and methods of research associated with that field;
that they have the ability, either singly or as part of a team, to conceive, design, implement and adapt a process of research with scholarly integrity, rigour and discrimination, which may involve the development of new skills, techniques, tools, materials, or practices;

that they are capable of critical analysis, evaluation and synthesis of new and complex ideas and practices;

that they have made some contribution through original research that extends the frontiers of knowledge or the parameters of professional practice by developing a body of work, some of which merits publication in national or international publications;

that they can communicate with their peers, practitioners in their own professions, the larger scholarly community and with society in general about their areas of expertise in a sustained and exact manner;

that they can be expected to be able to promote, with due regard to ethical considerations, within academic, professional and practice contexts, scientific, technological, social or cultural advancement;

that they can be expected to receive professional accreditation and recognition, where this is available, within their appropriate areas of expertise.

Categories of Outcome

In relation to the outcome of the examination process, the examiners may propose that:

(i) the degree be awarded for the thesis as it stands;

(ii) be awarded for the thesis subject to minor corrections, for which two months are allowed from the time of notification;

(iii) the thesis be referred for major revision and subsequent re-examination, for which six months are normally allowed from the time of notification;

(iv) a lower degree be awarded, if necessary following minor corrections to the thesis or;

(v) be failed.

A thesis may only be referred for major revision once: in other words, option (iii) above is not available to examiners on re-submission. Where corrections are required, these must be carried out by the student before the results are submitted to Council. In such cases a letter must be written to the Council stating that the corrections have been carried out satisfactorily. In the case of minor corrections a student may have up to two months to carry out the specified changes. In the case of a revision a second examination will be required, but not necessarily a second viva.
It is important to note that students must come back on books for option (iii) and there are usually fee implications.

Where there is a disagreement between whether the thesis should be awarded as it ‘stands’ or be subject to ‘minor’ corrections, the Dean of Graduate Studies adjudicates. Where there is a disagreement over whether the thesis be referred for major revisions, the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) will attempt to negotiate an agreement between the examiners. If no agreement can be reached, then the Dean of Graduate Studies will appoint two new examiners.

The reports written by the examiners, which must be submitted independently at the end of the examination period, are available initially only to the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). The student may see them on written request to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Appeals

As stated in Part Three of the Calendar, students who have gone through the process of a viva voce of a thesis and the outcome has referred the thesis back for extensive revision, or the award of a lower degree, or outright failure is recommended, the Dean of Graduate Studies shall inform the candidate of the verdict prior to the submission of the examiners’ reports to the Council. Appeals will be entertained only in cases amounting to a reasonable claim that the examination was unfair. If the candidate wishes to appeal, s/he must make application to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Appeals should be sought in writing in the first instance by the student’s supervisor (or if they are unwilling), the student themselves.
SECTION 8  ETHICAL GUIDELINES AROUND CONDUCTING EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

*** IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN TRINITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ETHICS APPROVAL AND (WHERE APPROPRIATE) GARDA VETTING BEFORE YOU CARRY OUT ANY D.Ed. RESEARCH***

Please refer to the School of Education Ethics web page for the procedure and approval forms https://www.Trinity.ie/Education/research/ethics/

Good research is not just about the quality or even the quantity of data that you gather, but also the way in which you undertake your work. As such these guidelines are intended to support you through this aspect of the research process and draw your attention to how you as a researcher, should interact with those who are participating in your study. The main point to note is that they are not meant to be prescriptive, as it is not possible to specify in detail what you should do in any given circumstance. In this sense, these guidelines should be used as a set of reference points to consider in discussion with your supervisor, during both the design and implementation stages of your study. Where appropriate, you should also be fully conversant with any ethical guidelines which are specific to your own discipline e.g. psychology, sociology, and so on.

In order to keep these guidelines as simple and clear as possible they are divided into two main sections. The first section 'responsibilities and relationships with your participants' provides guidance on how you should conduct your interactions with those who are participating in your study. The second section 'ensuring anonymity and confidentiality', is concerned with guidance on the kind of assurances you offer your participants with regards to the information they impart to you, and the uses to which it may be put.

Responsibilities and relationships with your participants

It is important to be aware that as a researcher you are engaging in a social relationship with your participants whether they be individuals (such as teachers, lecturers parents, children, young adults, school or college governors, ancillary and support staff), social groups or entities (such as schools, colleges, social service departments). As such these guidelines are intended to help you navigate this part of the research process.

1. Research should be based on informed consent. That is, the information given by your participants should be done so freely on the basis that they know and understand 1) the purpose of your research, 2) who is undertaking it, 3) why it is being undertaken and 4) who is sponsoring it - if at all.

2. Your participants should be given anonymity. This requires you to ensure that any disclosure of your data or subsequent analysis does not refer directly to the participants in your study.

3. You should inform your participants that they are able to reject the use of data-gathering devices e.g. tape recorders.
4. If you are conducting field work, do not assume that once you have negotiated access and consent to work in a particular setting(s), that this will automatically granted each time you enter the setting(s). Treat this part of your work as on-going and be prepared to re-negotiate access at various junctures. This line of reasoning should be followed whether you are conducting research in your own work-place or a setting where you are already perceived as a member, and sites that are new to you.

5. All research is a mode of intervention into the lives of those who are being studied. Some participants may welcome such interest and others may not. It is important that you respect the wishes of those who do not want to participate in your study, as not everyone will see such a process as a positive experience. Also, it is important not to give the impression to your participants, that your research may provide immediate answers or solutions to problems that you are investigating.

6. If you plan to or anticipate that your research will be placed in the public domain e.g. publications, conferences, seminars etc., you should inform your participants of this is, along with the guarantees of anonymity.

7. Considerable care should be exercised when working with those participants who may be seen to be vulnerable due to such factors as their age, status within and institution or organisation, and powerlessness. In addition, researchers must avoid exploiting disadvantaged individuals or groups for their own academic/professional advantage. Where possible and/or appropriate, it is desirable that research in whatever context (home/international/development) should be collaborative, involving local participants.

8. You must be careful not to intrude on the personal space of your participants or their relationships with others who may or may not be directly involved in your study.

9. As with access, informed consent should not be taken for granted, but subject to re-negotiation as various junctures during your study. This is especially important when seeking to obtain sensitive information. Do not assume that once a participant has agreed to be part of your study i.e. given their consent, that this means that they will be willing to divulge any information that you ask for. This should equally hold when working within institutions. If access has been gained via a gatekeeper, then do not presume that all people within the organisation are willing participants by proxy. Each time you approach someone new for information in any form (interview, observations, documents etc), you must obtain their consent.

10. In the case of any transcripts that you make, you should always seriously consider showing and/or sharing this information with your participants as a way of ensuring accuracy.

11. It is essential that you do not engage in any activities or act in anyway which may have negative consequences for you participants or their relationship with others who may not be directly involved in your study.
12. It is important for the researcher to be sensitive to and to respect conventions/cultural constraints when carrying out research in a cultural context with which he/she is not familiar or of which he/she is not a member. Consultation with a member or members of the cultural community regarding instruments and procedures is highly desirable before research commences, so that offence can be avoided.

13. The presentation of research findings should respect the sensitivities of the community in the context in which the research has been undertaken. Care must be taken not to humiliate or embarrass members of the community where research has been undertaken.

**Ensuring Anonymity and Confidentiality**

1. At the outset of your research you should offer where appropriate, guarantees of confidentiality (i.e. non-disclosure of proffered information to others) and anonymity (i.e. information cannot be traced back to individuals or specific organisations). If you are conducting 'one-off' interviews or observations, this must be made clear at the beginning of each encounter or session. This guarantee should also be given when asking for forms of documentation that are not already available within the public domain e.g. pupil records. In situations where you may intend to use part of even whole of your data set (for example direct quotations, images etc.) it is vital that you communicate this to your participants.

2. As a researcher you should respect the privacy and anonymity of your participants. What this means is that personal information and disclosures should be kept confidential. If need be, you may, depending on the situation choose not to record such information.

3. The identities and any related research records (e.g. interview transcripts, interviews tapes, video tapes, observation notes etc.) should be kept confidential.

4. You should always store your data in a secure manner. If practicable always try and break the link between the data and identifiable individuals. For example, use codes, pseudonyms and other forms of identifiers instead of your participants names, places of work and so on. Where you are using a mixture of information which is in the public domain and that which has been obtained by informed consent which concerns the same organisation, you must also ensure that there is no traceable link. In this situation it is best to remove from the public documents any identifiers which could be associated or linked to your participants.

5. Try and honour your guarantees of confidentiality and anonymity. If you need to or have to share data with others (e.g. your supervisor) it is important that you inform such people of the guarantees you have given and that they too, should abide by them.

6. As a researcher, you should avoid any actions or modes of behaviour which may produce consequences which make it difficult for other researchers who may follow you.
7. When placing your data, or the findings derived from your research into the public domain you must remove any identifier which could be traced back to the participants in your study e.g. names, specific locations etc.

8. You should be familiar with the requirements of the 2018 Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act 2014.
SECTION 9 PROGRAMME EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

One of the cornerstones of any academic programme is the need for on-going evaluation and review. Student comments, opinions and reflections are highly valued as they can be a rich source of information concerning the future of the programme. The programme has undergone three major reviews since its inception in 2015.

As with the School’s other postgraduate programme, it is exceedingly helpful if the students choose a class representative to act as their delegate. This role does not in any way preclude individual students discussing any matters arising regarding the programme with the Director, but it does help to present a single voice if there is a majority or consensus of opinion concerning any aspect of the programme. The programme comes under the auspice of the Doctoral programme board (chaired by the DPTL) which usually meets once a term to discuss the progress of the D.Ed. and issues that are brought up by students collectively via the class representative and individual students.

The External examiners

There are two types of external examiner for the programme. The first is concerned with the first two years of the programme (i.e. the modules) and the second, are those individuals involved in examining individual theses. Both act as points of exogenous ‘quality control’ of the programme. Their role would not deviate from that which is expected on for example the M.Ed., except that they would assess the programme at a doctoral level. It is also part of College process that the external examiner is encouraged to comment on or make recommendations about any aspect of the programme. More detail on the role of external examiner can be found on the GSO website.
SECTION 10  THE LIBRARY

The Library will be an important factor in students’ success and enjoyment at Trinity and we hope that this introduction will help new students to get the most from its resources and also to encourage returning students to extend their knowledge of what is available, on the shelves and through our web pages. We aim to provide high quality facilities and continuing support to students and postgraduates, and this range of services is based on close liaison with students’ representatives and academic staff. It should be noted that the School of Education has a dedicated librarian, Ms Geraldine Fitzgerald, who is extremely helpful and supportive and can be contacted at: fitzgey@Trinity.ie and 896 3322 (a.m.). Please note that due to Covid-19, it is advisable to visit the library website at www.tcd.ie/library for the most up to date information. The below information reflects the normal procedures pre Covid-19.

One of the things which we would strongly encourage you to become familiar with, is the very extensive array of materials (journals, database, web portals etc) which are held electronically by the library (http://www.Trinity.ie/Library/). There are a very large number of journals and you can directly download the articles in text or pdf formats. For those of us who are either impatient or do not have regular access to the library. This can make life much less complicated. It should be noted that whilst the library has a very large stock of journals, not all of them are on the shelves and have to be ordered from the ‘stacks’ which can take about a day to be delivered. For most of you the ‘virtual’ library this will probably your first ‘port of call’ for accessing or finding the location of materials and one which should become second nature to you!

As one of the great university libraries of the world, the College Library is a large organisation and can be complex to get to grips with early on, so it will help if you take advantage of the Library tours and the Information Skills Training programme which runs during the first (Michaelmas) term. These are designed to provide basic induction to the library and to focus on the information needs of different groups of students.

The buildings

You should soon become familiar with the physical layout of the Library’s buildings, on and off-campus. The Hamilton Library serves students in Science and Engineering studies. The Berkeley/Lecky/Ussher complex (referred to as “The BLU”) provides access to collections and services to Arts (Humanities), Arts (Letters) and BESS materials. It also houses the Map Library, facilities for students with disabilities, multi-media, photocopying and printing facilities. The 24-hour access computer room in the Ussher Library, with access off the podium, provides study accommodation and internet access to students working around the clock. The Old Library building has the departments of Early Printed Books and Manuscripts, together with the Library Shop, Book of Kells exhibition and Long Room. Members of College may visit these public areas with their guests. The 1937 Postgraduate Reading Room provides designated study accommodation for postgraduates. Off-campus, the Stearne Medical Library on the St James’s Hospital Teaching Centre delivers services to...

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4 This section has been prepared by Trinity library.
health science students on clinical attachment and students working at Tallaght Hospital may use the AMINCH Hospital Library.

Your use of the Library will be enhanced if you can enjoy a calm and focused study environment and we ask for your co-operation in following regulations by refraining from drinking, eating and using mobile phones in the Library.

The collections

Our status as a Legal Deposit Library means that we acquire well over 100,000 print items each year. Approximately 25% of our collections are available in open collections in the reading rooms; the rest are available promptly through the Bookstacks service. Increasingly, UK legal deposit publications are being received in soft copy. For example, e-books in this category must be consulted in the Library. A message will appear in the catalogue if this is the case. Staff are happy to assist. The Library’s resources range from over 30,000 electronic periodicals and databases to textbooks, literary papers, manuscripts, maps and microfilm. We have a stock of over 4.5m items. Your first point of access to many of these resources is the Library’s web page at http://www.Trinity.ie/Library/.

Do ask for help!

The Library’s staff members are keen to help in advising on use of the services so please ask if you are having difficulty in navigating around the system. The Library has a strong commitment to supporting students with disabilities. It is also very helpful for the Library to discuss relevant issues with the Students Union and we have regular meetings with Students Union Officers on developments and areas of concern. You can raise issues with your Library Class Representative who will forward them for discussion with the Library.

Admissions/Opening hours

Members of College must show their current Trinity College ID card on entering the Library. A swipe card system is in operation at the Berkeley Library entrance. Lost cards should be reported immediately to Student Records who will issue replacements. You can use your Trinity App. to gain access to the Library but not to borrow material. For a full overview of the library opening hours, please visit: https://www.tcd.ie/library/opening-hours/.

If you want to visit other Irish Libraries when you cannot find required material in our Library, use the ALCID card. Contact the Admissions desk to apply for a card at 01-8961657.

Catalogues

The Library’s catalogues record what we have and where items are located. The different catalogues cover different periods of the Library’s past. The catalogue record will give you the shelf-mark of material which acts like the item’s address within the Library.

STELLA search Online catalogue (In all reading rooms and on web)

This is the main Library discovery tool which allows journal article searching and online Stacks requesting.
Classic Catalogue

This is a more structured interface which does not facilitate stack requesting online.

Accessions catalogue  *(Ground Floor, Berkeley Library)*

Lists all items received 1873 to the 1960s –some overlap with the online catalogue - by author.

*Printed Catalogue (Ground Floor – Berkeley Library and Early Printed Books)*

Lists all items acquired up to 1872 - by author.

**Location of collections**

Open access = on the shelf in a reading room.

Closed access = held in storage.

The open access collection is generally purchased and recommended course-relevant material. It is classified by subject matter according to the Dewey Classification scheme in which each major division of knowledge is given a number between 100 and 999. Education is located in the Lecky library at 370-379.

You can send for material on closed access (aka stacks/storage) online and on call slips (print journal issues and rare items). Items from Bookstacks take about one hour to arrive and deliveries from Santry arrive the following working day – at about 1.30 p.m. External storage items take slightly longer. Staff can advise.

**Borrowing**

A *current* Trinity College ID card is essential to borrow books. Research and Higher Degree Postgraduates may borrow up to 10 books for one month from the open shelves and closed access areas. This can include up to 4 books from the one week undergraduate lending collection if no other copies are available. Diploma and Higher Diploma Postgraduates may borrow up to four books at any one time from the open access undergraduate lending collections.

**Reserve Collection**

The Reserve collection is material that is in heavy demand and can only be read for a limited period (5 hours) in the particular reading room concerned. In addition to books, Academic staff often request that course material (lecture notes, journal articles etc.) be placed "In Reserve". The Reserve collection is generally kept behind or near the counter and can also be known as the Behind Counter or Counter Reserve collection.

**Inter Library Loans**
Forms for obtaining items not available in the Library are located in all reading rooms. The cost to students is 8 euro per item. For staff there is a minimum charge of 10 euro.

Renewals

Renewals and reservations are possible through the online catalogue. You will need your College ID that is issued on registration. Renewals are possible provided a reservation has not been placed on the book by another reader. You may renew a weekly loan book up to eight times. Monthly loans may be renewed once. When renewal limit has been reached books must be returned to the Library.

Consulting Your Own Record

You can consult your own record in the Online Catalogue by choosing My Library Account on the Library homepage or Login on subsequent pages. You will be prompted for your College ID (username and password) which was issued to you at registration. Once in your record, you can see the items you have borrowed and under Holds, you can see the items which you have requested from stacks or open shelf books which you have reserved. As a student you can renew items provided that you have no Blocks e.g. outstanding fines or an overdue book. One-week loans may be renewed up to eight times for one week each, and monthly loans may be renewed for one further period of a month. After these periods, the books must be brought to the Library for return or further renewals. When books are required by other students it will not be possible to renew them. Staff loans may not be renewed online. Renewals / Reservations are not permitted if you have overdue books or fines outstanding.

Carrels

Study carrels for Masters and Doctorate students are available in the Berkeley, Lecky, Ussher and Hamilton reading rooms. Priority is given to first-time applicants and to those students completing higher degrees by research alone. Applications for carrels can be made at the Admissions Counter in the Berkeley/Lecky/Ussher Library or at the Hamilton Library counter.

Photocopying / Printing

The printing, scanning and photocopying service in the College Computer Rooms and Library is managed by IS Services and the Library and provided by Datapac.

Before being able to use the service you must first credit your print/scan/copy account. You can top up online at http://www.Trinityprint.ie or at any of the Datapac Kiosks located around College. You’ll need to touch your student ID card, or enter the first 8 digits of your College ID number, and then enter your Datapac PIN. This PIN is sent to your College e-mail address after you complete online registration.

A ‘follow-me’ system means you can release your print job, using your ID card, at any Datapac printer, whether on or off campus. This means that during busy periods, or if a printer is offline, you can physically print from any available printer in the computer rooms or Library.
To check your account balance and printing history login at http://www.Trinityprint.ie. Black & white printing/copying costs 5c per A4 page for single-side or 8c for duplex. Colour is 15c per A4 page, single-side or 28c for duplex.

You can also print from your own computer if you are connected to the TRINITY connect service.

Please note you are required to comply with the Copyright Act 2000 when making photocopies from material which enjoys copyright protection. Details about copyright and handling of material are placed next to the photocopiers

Readers with disabilities

All services for students with disabilities, registered with the Disability Service, are co-ordinated through the Assistive Technology & Information Centre (ATIC) which is based in room 2054 in the Arts Building and is accessible through the Lecky Library and the Arts concourse. The Disability Service and ATIC can be contacted at 896 3111 or by email askds@tcd.ie. The Library Liaison for students with disabilities is Sean Breen (jbreen@tcd.ie) Room 2048 in the Lecky Library or Tel. 896 1151.

The Library provides Resource Rooms in several locations. The rooms are all wheelchair accessible and equipped with the latest assistive technology hardware and software. Refer to https://www.tcd.ie/disability/services/assistive-tech/where-at.php for further details.

Borrowing Privileges for students with disabilities

Students registered with a disability may be entitled to special borrowing privileges. Please refer to https://www.tcd.ie/library/using-library/disabilities.php

Electronic Resources

The library subscribes to a wide range of databases and e-journals covering all subjects. These are available from our web page (http://www.Trinity.ie/Library/) and the online catalogue. See the customised Subject Librarian page for Education for key education resources http://www.trinity.ie/library/support/subjects/education/. Access is also possible from College PAC rooms and home computers. Please note: Internet access on Library workstations is strictly for research purposes – no email please.

Information Skills Training

The Library staff run a programme of training sessions at lunch times during the first (Michaelmas) term on how to get the best from the Library and its resources. Look out for details on notice boards and on the web. Previous presentations and tutorials are available under Support and Training on the Library website.

Contacts and further information
Please ask any member of Library staff for assistance or directions in the reading rooms. Information on all services and announcements on changes and developments are available from the Library’s web site at: http://www.trinity.ie/library/.

**Some Rules and Regulations**

- Mobile phones must be switched off before you enter the Library.
- No eating, drinking, talking loudly or personal stereos permitted.
- Internet use within the Library is strictly for research. No e-mail or word processing is allowed.
- Do not re-shelve books. Please leave them on the trolleys provided.
- If you leave your seat for more than 15 minutes, it may be taken by another reader.

The library regulations are for the benefit of all library users and future users.

**Need help?**

The Library’s staff members are keen to help in advising on use of the services so please ask if you are having and difficulty in using the Library. Your Subject Librarian can help with subject-related queries (geraldine.fitzgerald@tcd.ie) Office hours a.m.

You can also email general queries to the enquiry service at library@tcd.ie. Turnaround time is within one day. Telephone 01-8961127.
SECTION 11 OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

As with all large universities, Trinity offers and provides a range of other services, which are to support you as a student. As ever, the best place to explore them in more detail is via the Trinity website https://www.trinity.ie/students/ as it is difficult at this stage to anticipate what your needs might be. Some of the services relate to only undergraduates and/or postgraduates, but there are those which are relevant to both groups such as the ‘Disability Service’ or the ‘Junior Dean’. There is also a graduate students union https://www.trinitygsu.ie/ which as a registered student you automatically become a member of. One particular facility that you might find useful is the ‘1937 Postgraduate Reading Room’ - located in Front Square beside the Exam hall – and is open from 8am to 12 am year-round. And as described by the GSU it is a ‘quiet place to study and postgraduate students can avail of computer and web access, photocopying and low-cost printing’.

As ICT becomes more central to being a postgraduate students, it is essential that you familiarise yourself with Trinity’s Information Systems Services http://www.Trinity.ie/itservices/general/contact.php. This is a large multifaceted department with covers most, if not all ICT needs from purchasing software and hardware to the provision of short courses. For those students who have a suitable laptop, one thing you may find useful is the ISS wireless network service. Again, how to connect to this can be found on their website, but on the days you are in College, it can provide you with a relatively ‘hassle free’ alternative to finding a computer workstation in one of the computer rooms spread around the campus.

POSTGRADUATE ADVISORY SERVICE

Trinity has a postgraduate advisory service which is available free of charge to all registered postgraduate students at Trinity College Dublin. It offers a comprehensive range of academic, pastoral and professional supports dedicated to enhancing the learning experience for each student. The Postgraduate Student Support Officer is Dr. Dermot Nestor, and he provides support for all postgraduate students at Trinity College Dublin. He will act as a first point of contact and a source of support and guidance to postgraduate students both upon their arrival in College and at any time during their stay.

Postgraduate Student Support Officer,
Senior Tutor’s Office,
House 27,
Tel: +353-1-896 1417
E-mail: pgsupp@tcd.ie
Web: https://www.trinity.ie/Senior_Tutor/postgraduateadvisory/

The postgraduate student support office is located on the second floor of House 27.

The office is open from 9.00am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Appointments are available 9.30am – 4.00pm.
In addition to the dedicated Postgraduate Student Support Officer, each Faculty has three members of their academic staff, with substantive experience of research supervision, designated to provide local support to the postgraduate students for whom the Faculty is responsible. Further details of the kinds of queries and issues dealt with by the Postgraduate Advisory Service are available on the ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ page of the dedicated website.

https://www.trinity.ie/Senior_Tutor/postgraduateadvisory/

Student Counselling

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/Student_Counselling/

The Student Counselling Service is a confidential, professional service available free of charge to every Trinity College student. It offers help in coping with any personal or emotional problems which may impact on your studies or progress in the university and offers learning support and development aids. Appointments should be made directly with the Counselling Service. Students may also like to contact the Peer Support Group 'Student 2 Student' which is a group of students trained in listening and helping other students.

Student Learning Development Services

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/Student-Counselling/student-learning/index.php

Student Learning Development is part of the Counselling Service in Trinity College Dublin. Their role is to help students to improve their learning and study skills via one to one appointments and workshops. They can help with academic writing, revision and exam strategies, time management, giving presentations, motivation, critical thinking and thesis writing. For further information see their website or contact them by email on lsdev@tcd.ie or telephone on (01) 896 1407.

Disability Service

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/disability/

The Disability Service is the support service for students with disability or special learning difficulties. Students requiring support from Trinity College due to the impact of their disability or specific learning difficulty are advised to contact the Service as early as possible to explore what supports can be provided.

Careers Advisory Service

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/Careers/

The Careers Advisory Service is located on the second floor of East Chapel in Front Square. This service helps students at all stages to plan their career. Their information centre can advise on vacation work, career options, job vacancies, job application, interview techniques, and much more.
College Health Service

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/College_Health/

The College Health Service in House 47 is open every weekday and provides relatively inexpensive primary health and psychiatric care, by appointment. It is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 am to 4.40 pm.

Graduate Students Union

Website: https://www.Trinitygsu.ie/

Located on the second floor of House 6, the Graduate Students' Union is an independent body within College that represents postgraduate students throughout College. Upon registration, all postgraduates are automatically members. It is run by two full-time sabbatical officers; in the year 2013-14 the officers are the President, Ryan Kenny, and the Vice-President, Sarah Smith. The President is responsible for strategy and policy formulation, whilst sitting on a wide range of committees. The Vice-President is the Union's Education and Welfare Officer and advises students on matters such as academic appeals and supervisor relationships, in addition to providing advice and direction on more personal matters, such as financial concerns, illness and bereavement. Any discussions about such concerns are treated with the strictest confidentiality. The GSU offers three main facilities: the 1937 Reading Room, the GSU Common Room on the first floor of House 7, (open daily from 8 am to 11.30 pm) and the GSU office in Room 28, House 6.

Contact the GSU at either: president@gsu.tcd.ie, or vicepresident@gsu.tcd.ie.

College Chaplaincy

Website: http://www.trinity.ie/Chaplaincy/

Trinity College Dublin is non-denominational and as part of its commitment to enhancing the quality of student life, supports a chaplaincy service run by the four principal Christian traditions in Ireland. Chaplains offer pastoral and spiritual guidance through a programme of faith development, conversation and prayer groups and students are welcome to attend any of the seminars, days of reflection and weekends away. Tea and coffee are available all day in the chaplaincy in House 27 on weekdays during term time and a free lunch of soup and sandwiches is available each Tuesday in term time between 12.30 and 1.30. All students are welcome.

The College also maintains prayer rooms for Muslim students. Further details of these, other religious communities in the Dublin area and the times of services in the College chapel are available on the Chaplaincy website.
ANNEX ONE REFERENCING

Introduction

In light of the increase in use of citation and referencing software such as EndNote or RefWorks, the School of Education has amended its citation and referencing conventions to accommodate the use of such software. The conventions adopted are those of the American Psychological Association (APA) and when using EndNote or other citation software, you should format all entries as APA 6th. The following indicates how cited work should be included in both the text of your thesis and the list of references at the end whether using software or not. In the writing of your assignments and thesis work please follow these conventions

[The School of Education acknowledges the contribution of the State University of Sacramento in the preparation of this document]

IN TEXT

Throughout the body of your paper, note the author and date of research that you mention.

Author and Date Cited in Text (no parenthetical citation necessary)

In a 1989 article, Gould explores some of Darwin's most effective metaphors.

Author Not Cited in Text

As metaphors for the workings of nature, Darwin used the tangled bank, the tree of life, and the face of nature (Gould, 1989).

Author Cited in Text

Gould (1989) attributes Darwin's success to his gift for making the appropriate metaphor.

Direct Quotation with Name of Author

Gould (1989) explains that Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological—and to illustrate both success and failure in the history of life" (p. 14).

Direct Quotation without Name of Author

Darwin used the metaphor of the tree of life "to express the other form of interconnectedness—genealogical rather than ecological" (Gould, 1989, p. 14).

For each of the samples above the correct "References" APA style format would be:

Quoting references that cite other works

To cite secondary sources, refer to both sources in the text, but include in the References list only the source that you actually used. For instance, suppose you read Feist (1998) and would like to paraphrase a sentence from Bandura (1989) within that book:

In this case, your in-text citation would be: Bandura (Bandura, 1989, as cited in Feist, 1998) defined self-efficacy as "people's beliefs about their capabilities to exercise control over events that affect their lives" (p. 1175).

Feist (1998) would be fully referenced within the list of References. Bandura (1989) would not be listed.

LIST OF REFERENCES

Begin your list of references on a new page, headed with the word “References” centred at the top.

Use “Reference” if there is only one.

Alphabetize the list by author's last name. If there is no author given, start with the first significant word in the title.

For article titles, capitalize only the first word of the title and subtitle, and proper names.

Periodical titles should be written in full with both capital and lower case letters.

References are to be in a hanging indent format, meaning that the first line of each reference is set flush left and subsequent lines are indented (In Microsoft Office: Word 2007, choose Line spacing> Line spacing options> Indentation> Special> Hanging). Double space the entire list.

PRINT SOURCES: JOURNAL ARTICLES


One Author


Two to Seven Authors

Eight or More Authors

Note: Include all authors up to and including seven. For eight or more, include the first six, then an ellipsis, followed by the last author's name.


Magazine Article


Review of a Book


Daily Newspaper Article, No Author

Note: Use p or pp before page number. If the article had more than one page but not continuous then the citation would be "pp. A12, A14."


Letter to the Editor, Newspaper Article


Entire Issue of a Journal


PRINT SOURCE: BOOKS AND REPORTS

Format: Author, A.A. (year). Title of work. Location: Publisher.

Book


A Book by More than One Author

Edited Book


Corporate Author as Publisher


Anonymous Author


Chapter in a Book


ERIC Document


Government Report


ELECTRONIC (BROADCAST, ONLINE and WEB SITES)

Many scholarly publishers have been assigning unique identifiers to each published article. The DOI (Digital Object Identifier) is an alpha-numeric code registered to each scholarly article in order to assign a persistent link to the article. The DOI has replaced the database name and URL in the list of references. Because the link is to the final version, do not include a retrieval date. Since DOI numbers are complex, copy and paste DOI into the reference. APA recommends that the DOI be included for print and online citations.

Citing electronic sources is similar to citing print sources; citations direct readers to the source or as close as possible.


Full-Text Article with DOI assigned


*Full-Text Articles without a DOI*

If no DOI has been assigned, provide the home page URL of the journal, book or report publisher. If you are accessing through a database, you may need to do a web search to locate the URL. It is not necessary to include the name of the database. There is no full-stop at the end of a reference citation ending with a URL.


*Online Newspaper Article*


*Research or Technical Report from a Web Site*


*Article from Web Site or E-journal*


*Webpage*


Note: Use (n.d.) if no date is given.

*Television Broadcast*

Electronic Book from Web Site


Electronic Book from Database


TRINITYWiki


Data set


Blog post


Audio podcast

ANNEX TWO: THESIS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN TRINITY COLLEGE)

When writing the thesis (both the copy for examination and if successful the final hard-bound copy), you should adhere to the regulations which are specific to Trinity and can be found in Part 3 of the Calendar. The following are extracts which you should read carefully as a way of avoiding unnecessary and timely complications.

Intention to Submit Form. This form must be completed and returned at least one month prior to submission by every postgraduate research student to the Director of Teaching and Learning Postgraduate in their School, copying ethesis@tcd.ie. Submitting this form should initiate the formal nomination of examiners for your thesis and by not submitting this form you may significantly delay the process for the examination of your thesis.

General. Candidates and Supervisors should note that these requirements are mandatory, and they are asked to familiarise themselves with the information below. Theses must meet all the requirements set out below. Please note: from time to time the Dean of Graduate Studies may approve other formats on an individual basis.

Language. A thesis or dissertation should be written in English or Irish unless prior permission has been granted for the use of another language by the Dean of Graduate Studies. A candidate who wishes to write a thesis or dissertation in a language other than English or Irish should initially contact his/her Supervisor/Course Co-ordinator. The Supervisor/Course Co-ordinator will then consult with his/her Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the latter can satisfy him/herself that a) there are sound academic reasons for the thesis or dissertation to be written in a language other than English or Irish and b) that the candidate has the necessary skills/fluency in the relevant language, then the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) should send a summary of the case under the two headings outlined above to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean of Graduate Studies will normally be guided by the recommendation of the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) but may refer the matter to the Graduate Studies Committee if s/he deems it necessary.

Published Work. A thesis submitted for a higher degree may be based on, or include, writings already published by the candidate, if the studies from which they derive have been carried out during the period of registration on the higher degree register. Such writings must be fully integrated into the body of the thesis.

Length. A thesis must be written concisely. The D.Ed. thesis can be between 60,000-80,000 word long. Additional material, such as numerical appendices, listings of computer programs and textual footnotes, may be bound in a separate volume.

Typescript and illustrations. The thesis must be printed on good quality, A4 (297 x 210mm) white paper. The type must be fully formed as in the output of a laser or ink jet printer. The output of dot matrix printers is not acceptable. The type must be black and not less than 10 point. Line-spacing must be at one and a half or double spacing between lines. The gutter margin of both text and diagrams must not be less than 35 mm and that on the other three sides not less than 20 mm. The two copies of the thesis for examination should be soft-bound and printed on one side of the page only. It is expected that the hard-bound copy of
a thesis will be printed on both sides of the page on paper of a weight of at least 90gms. A copy of the hard-bound thesis will be lodged in the Library following approval by Council. Colour photocopies and scanned images may be used in the copy of the thesis deposited in the Library. Soft (i.e. electronic versions) of the thesis may be submitted.

Cover. A thesis which has been examined and in which all necessary corrections have been completed must be securely bound in hard covers with dark blue cloth. The final size when bound must not exceed 320 x 240 mm.

Title. The title of the thesis must be written in full on the title page of each volume of the thesis. The degree for which the thesis has been submitted, the year, and the name of the candidate, in that order, should be lettered in gold, in 24 pt or larger type, down the spine, so as to be readable when the volume is lying flat with the front cover uppermost. The title must also appear in gold lettering on the front cover of the thesis. The year on the spine and title page must be the year that the thesis was approved by Council (not the year of initial submission).

Declaration. The thesis must contain immediately after the title page a signed declaration that it has not been submitted as an exercise for a degree at this or any other University, it is entirely the candidate's own work (in the case of a thesis for which the work has been carried out jointly; there must be a statement that it includes the unpublished and/or published work of others, duly acknowledged in the text wherever included) and the candidate agrees that the Library may lend or copy the thesis upon request. This permission covers only single copies made for study purposes, subject to normal conditions of acknowledgement. (See below for withheld access (a “stay”) for such permission).

Summary. A succinct summary of the methods used and the major findings of the thesis must be bound into each copy of the thesis following the declaration page. It must not exceed two pages of typescript.

Acknowledgements. A formal statement of acknowledgements must be included in the thesis.

References. Systematic and complete reference to sources used and a classified list of all sources used must be included in the thesis. The titles of journals preferably should not be abbreviated; if they are, abbreviations must comply with an internationally recognised system (the format may vary according to the precedents and customs of the subject area; graduate students should consult with their Supervisor as to appropriate presentation).

Abstract. One copy of an abstract, printed on a single sheet of A4 paper, must be submitted loose with each copy of the soft-bound thesis. The abstract must contain the title of the thesis and the author's full names as a heading and may be single spaced. Two copies of an abstract must be submitted loose with the final hard-bound copy.

Submission. Two copies of the thesis, which may not be returned, and which for the first submission (i.e. examination) must be soft-bound, should be presented at the Graduate Studies Office, accompanied by two loose copies of the abstract. The thesis will not be accepted until it has been established that the candidate is currently registered on the higher degree register and that any outstanding fees have been paid.
A successful thesis i.e. one which has passed all the necessary assessments and has been approved by College Academic Council may be deposited as an ‘e-thesis’. Instructions for this can be found at:


Access to theses. One copy of every thesis approved for a higher degree is lodged in the custody of the Librarian in the University Library. A thesis so approved may be consulted or copied in the Library or through an inter-library loan. Users must undertake not to use or reproduce material so obtained without the consent of the Librarian and must acknowledge duly the source of such information.

Withheld access (a “stay”). Should an author of a thesis wish to withhold permission for the use of her/his work, a written application must be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies at the time of submission of the thesis for examination. Such applications must have the written support of the graduate student’s Supervisor or Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), must state the reasons for the request for a stay on access and must provide a contact address. The maximum length of a stay is five years. During this period of withheld permission the thesis may be consulted, lent or copied only by written permission of the author who is under an obligation to reply to all inquiries within a reasonable time.
ANNEX THREE: RESEARCH ETHICS FORMS

The ethics procedure, research ethics approval forms, and Garda vetting form have been updated recently and are available on the School of Education website at:

http://www.Trinity.ie/Education/ethics/

The School of Education is the site for a large number of research projects carried out by staff and students and is aware of the responsibilities and duties that such work involves. The School is committed to the conduct of high-quality research that is guided by the latest understandings of research ethics and their place in all research design. In its research activity, the School is committed to ethical principles that include:

• a commitment to the well-being, protection and safety of participants;
• a duty to respect the rights and wishes of participants;
• an evaluation of the relative benefits of any research to groups and individuals
• a responsibility to conduct rigorous, academic research;
• a commitment to disseminate the results of research in an honest and truthful manner to all who may be affected by the research or those who should be informed about the research
ANNEX FOUR: D.ED. STUDENT PROGRESS REVIEW FORM

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

Trinity College

PROGRESS REPORT

(D.Ed Students)

Please complete the self-assessment part of this form, sign it and forward it to your supervisor to complete the section overleaf.

The completed form must be returned by your supervisor to the Research Officer by the 30th of September to phdrsrch@tcd.ie.

Name of postgraduate student: __________________________________________

Student no: _____________________________________________________________

Provisional title of thesis: ________________________________________________

Name of supervisor(s): ____________________________________________________

1. Student's self-assessment of work done since September 20__

This is to be submitted to the supervisor for comments and transmission to the Head of School. Students should not hesitate to mention problems, set-backs etc., since these matters are important to the Head of School in monitoring progress and permitting extensions etc. (continue on a separate sheet, if necessary).

Student's signature

_______________________________________________________________________

2. Supervisor's comments (the substance of these observations should be discussed with the student).
Has the student been working in Trinity this year? Yes/No

(If the answer is no, please state reasons for absence, place of study and supervisory arrangements).

Do you recommend continuation on the higher degree register? Yes/No

If the student is in her/his final year of registration, do you foresee any problems which might prevent submission of the thesis on or before the cessation date?

Supervisor's Signature

________________________________________
ANNEX FIVE CONFIRMATION ON THE REGISTER FORM

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Confirmation of the continuation on the Ph.D. register
[See section 2.14 of the College Calendar Part III]

(This form is to be submitted by students wishing to confirm their continuation on the Ph.D. register, prior to their continuation interview.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student number</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisional title of thesis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present degree for which you are registered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of registration as a postgraduate student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training and experience (include details of activities relevant to this transfer procedure, and of any research or other relevant papers, books, etc. which have been published)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Please summarise
   (i) The main aims/objectives of your research
   (ii) The methods/approaches/style of your research
   (iii) If your research is mainly empirical in nature, please indicate the scale of your study; e.g. number and nature of the population(s) you will investigate.
   (iv) A time-line that indicates key stages in your research plan, and what you expect to have achieved at each time point.

2. Explain in what way is your research up to now has been successful/productive.
3. Describe any challenges you have faced, and how you have overcome or plan to overcome these?

4. What do you think will be the main outcomes of your research at Ph.D. level, assuming it reaches a successful conclusion? How will it contribute to the creation of new knowledge in your chosen field?

5. Please enclose two copies of your written work that would form the basis of two chapters of your thesis (typically the literature review and methodology chapters). These should follow established academic conventions for a thesis.

Student’s Signature:
Date:

Please provide this completed form along with your sample chapters to:

The Postgraduate Research Officer
(phdrsrc@tcd.ie)

(A draft of this report and samples of your work should also be returned to your supervisor at least two weeks prior to your transfer interview in order to be reviewed in good time.)

Please email this completed form, along with your sample chapters to:

Ms. Fiona McKibben/Ms. Caroline Morgan, Research Officers

Email: phdrsch@tcd.ie

(A draft of this report and samples of your work should also be returned to your supervisor at least 3 weeks prior to your confirmation interview in order to be reviewed.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michaelmas Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Dr Susanne Colleary</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>17-Oct</td>
<td>10.00-13.00pm</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Dr Susanne Colleary</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>6-Nov</td>
<td>17.00-20.00</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td>Dr Marita Kerin</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>27-Nov</td>
<td>17:00-20.00</td>
<td>Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hilary Term</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 4</td>
<td>Prof Colette Murphy</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>29-Jan</td>
<td>16:30-20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 5</td>
<td>Prof Colette Murphy</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>5-Feb</td>
<td>16:30-20.00</td>
<td>4035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 6</td>
<td>Prof Carmel O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>16:30-20.00</td>
<td>4035</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Prof Carmel O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>26-Mar</td>
<td>16:30-20.00</td>
<td>4035</td>
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<td>Time</td>
<td>Session Title</td>
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<td>5-8pm</td>
<td>Making Numbers 1:</td>
<td>Exploring the process of questionnaire design, including looking at the problem of samples &amp; sampling, transferability and dependability in research</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>Fri 9 Oct Online</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
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<td>5-8pm</td>
<td>Making Numbers 2:</td>
<td>Exploring the process of questionnaire design, including looking at the problem of samples &amp; sampling, transferability and dependability in research</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>Fri 20 Nov Online</td>
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<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>design</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-8pm</td>
<td>Dear Diary?</td>
<td>An introduction to the use of diaries as a mode of data generation</td>
<td>Dr Tom Farrelly</td>
<td>Fri 4th Dec Online</td>
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# D.Ed. Research for Fieldwork *2 (2020-21)

**Semester Two (2021)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Date &amp; Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>4-8pm</td>
<td>Asking Awkward Questions *1: The Interview Process</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>22nd Jan 3105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five</td>
<td>4-8pm</td>
<td>Asking Awkward Questions *2: The Focus Group</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>19th Feb 3105</td>
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<td>Six</td>
<td>4-8pm</td>
<td>Watching the World go By: Observation</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>16th April 3105</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seven</td>
<td>4-6pm</td>
<td>Theoretical Thinking*1: Frameworks &amp; Models and Joining Conceptual Dots</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley &amp; Aidan Seery</td>
<td>30th April 3105</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6-8pm</td>
<td>More on Mucky Pictures: Image based modes of research</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>4-8pm</td>
<td>Poster Time (Again)</td>
<td>Andrew Loxley</td>
<td>14th May 3105</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Fri.*
Don't Panic